

news, was for 40 years a television personality and was really the anchor and the conscience of many television journalists in a medium that was just finding itself in the 1950's and the 1960's, in the 1970's and the 1980's when Bill Burns came to anchor many of the newscasts on KDKA-TV, the CBS affiliate in Pittsburgh. It was my honor during the last 12 years of Bill's career to sit very near him, to learn from him and to work with him in that very same newsroom.

Bill Burns has passed away after so many years and is really an icon to those people in broadcasting. Walter Cronkite has said of Bill Burns that he could have come to New York to be with the network any time he wanted to, but the problem with Bill Burns, if there was indeed a problem, was that Pittsburgh was his home. It was where he always wanted to live. It was the community that he loved. It was where he wanted to serve.

Bill Burns was born in the tiny town of Houtzdale, PA, in Clearfield County. I remember doing news stories there myself when I was a young cub reporter at channel 10 in Altoona. He always joked about the fact that here he was, a used sewing machine salesman from Houtzdale, PA, and Uncle Sam gave him a gun, let him off a boat near Normandy, and told him to take on the Third Reich's greatest army. He bore the injuries of a very heavy, deep shrapnel wound to his leg. He was awarded the Purple Heart and carried a brace on that leg for the rest of his life.

It was always amazing as he carried his 6-foot-plus carriage into any news conference the respect that he commanded not only from his fellow reporters both in the print and in electronic journalism, but from the people that he interviewed as well. One newscaster, another friend of mine, Adam Lynch, talked about the story when they were all standing in an area waiting for people to come out to give them an interview and the police said to all the reporters, "You have to stay here." Here comes Bill Burns with that leg brace on and that stoic walk that he had, brisped right by all of these people that were behaving dutifully, having been told to wait in a specific place. A uniformed police officer reached over and opened the door and allowed Bill Burns to go in the room. He was the only reporter that was able to have access and to get the story.

He was respected because he cared about not only delivering the news, but he cared so much about the community and the accuracy of the news that he reported. If only just a small part of that honesty and integrity that Bill Burns represented to television journalism were to exist throughout that medium today, it would be a much finer medium.

Those of us who were young reporters, who had to labor under a tough taskmaster, know that when you had to go out in the Pittsburgh market, and particularly working at KDKA

with Bill Burns, and you had to cover a news story, if you could answer the questions that Bill had for you when you got back from the story, there was no problem facing the television audience that night. He was fantastic at debriefing a reporter, making sure that before you came on his newscast, that you knew what it was you were talking about, that you had done the A's, the B's and the C's of good news gathering.

And, in fact, right up to his retirement in 1989, he worked many hours every day, 5, 6, 7 days a week if he was needed, well into his seventies. If the reporters who were on the street every day had a problem gathering a news story, if they did not know who to talk to or where to go, all they had to do was talk to Bill Burns. Bill had contacts.

He was respected very much throughout the entire community by those who worked with him, those who competed against him. In fact, Bill Burns commanded the ratings in the city of Pittsburgh. I do not think that any major television news market will ever be dominated again by one particular person. It was not unlike Bill Burns to be able to achieve numbers of 60, 65 percent of the television viewing audience watching his noon newscast.

One of the greatest moments I know in Bill Burns' life came back on October 18, 1976, the year of our Nation's bicentennial, when he was able to sit shoulder to shoulder with his daughter Patty Burns. They anchored the news together. It was jokingly called the Patty and Daddy Show.

To his daughter Patty Burns, who is a wonderful lady and a great friend, I wish her all of our sympathies. To his son Michael, I wish them all of our sympathies. We will miss Bill Burns. We will miss that arching eyebrow as he gave us the news. That, of course, will never happen again.

To Bill Burns, wherever he is, I would like to say, good night, good luck, and good news tomorrow.

#### FEDERAL BUREAUCRATS ON THE RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, another Member severely criticized me on the House floor for declaring on C-SPAN that indeed many Americans justifiably feared their own government. This fear has come from the police state mentality that prompted Ruby Ridge, Waco and many other episodes of an errant Federal Government.

Under the constitution, there was never meant to be a Federal police force. Even an FBI limited only to investigations was not accepted until this century. Yet today, fueled by the Federal Government's misdirected war on drugs, radical environmentalism, and the aggressive behavior of the

nanny state, we have witnessed the massive buildup of a virtual army of armed regulators prowling the States where they have no legal authority. The sacrifice of individual responsibility and the concept of local government by the majority of American citizens has permitted the army of bureaucrats to thrive.

We have depended on government for so much for so long that we as people have become less vigilant of our liberties. As long as the government provides largesse for the majority, the special interest lobbyists will succeed in continuing the redistribution of welfare programs that occupies most of Congress's legislative time.

Wealth is limited, yet demands are unlimited. A welfare system inevitably diminishes production and shrinks the economic pie. As this occurs, anger among the competing special interests grows. While Congress and the people concentrate on material welfare and its equal redistribution, the principals of liberty are ignored, and freedom is undermined.

More immediate, the enforcement of the interventionist state requires a growing army of bureaucrats. Since groups demanding special favors from the Federal Government must abuse the rights and property of those who produce wealth and cherish liberty, real resentment is directed at the agents who come to eat out our substance. The natural consequence is for the intruders to arm themselves to protect against angry victims of government intrusion.

Thanks to a recent article by Joseph Farah, director of the Western Journalism Center of Sacramento, CA, appearing in the Houston Chronicle, the surge in the number of armed Federal bureaucrats has been brought to our attention. Farah points out that in 1996 alone, at least 2,439 new Federal cops were authorized to carry firearms. That takes the total up to nearly 60,000. Farah points out that these cops were not only in agencies like the FBI, but include the EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Even Bruce Babbitt, according to Farah, wants to arm the Bureau of Land Management. Farah logically asks, "When will the NEA have its armed art cops?" This is a dangerous trend.

It is ironic that the proliferation of guns in the hands of the bureaucrats is pushed by the antigun fanatics who hate the second amendment and would disarm every law-abiding American citizen. Yes, we need gun control. We need to disarm our bureaucrats, then abolish the agencies. If government bureaucrats like guns that much, let them seek work with the NRA.

Force and intimidation are the tools of tyrants. Intimidation with government guns, the threat of imprisonment, and the fear of harassment by government agents puts fear into the hearts of millions of Americans. Four

days after Paula Jones refused a settlement in her celebrated suit, she received notice that she and her husband would be audited for 1995 taxes. Since 1994 is the current audit year for the IRS, the administration's denial that the audit is related to the suit is suspect, to say the least.

Even if it is coincidental, do not try to convince the American people. Most Americans, justifiably cynical and untrusting toward the Federal Government, know the evidence exists that since the 1970's both Republican and Democratic administrations have not hesitated to intimidate their political enemies with IRS audits and regulatory harassment.

Even though the average IRS agent does not carry a gun, the threat of incarceration and seizure of property is backed up by many guns. All government power is ultimately gun power and serves the interests of those who despise or do not comprehend the principles of liberty. The gun in the hands of law-abiding citizens serves to hold in check arrogant and aggressive government. Guns in the hands of the bureaucrats do the opposite. The founders of this country fully understood this fact.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.]

#### THE STRONG NATIONAL ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in the Chamber today to talk about a very important issue to all Americans, and that is our economy, and specifically what I would like to address is some of the questions surrounding why is our economy doing so well.

There are lots of economists, people on Wall Street, who are marveling at the low unemployment rates, the low inflation rate, the very, very strong stock market. Indeed many people are saying that this is the best economy since World War II, possibly one of the best economies in our Nation's history. Why is that? What is going on? What are the causes for this?

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In particular, I want to address an issue that a lot of people have been bringing up, is it indeed secondary to the consequences of the policies and programs of the Clinton administration?

I have had the opportunity to hear both the Vice President and the President speak on a number of occasions, and, indeed, taking advantage of the situation with this strong economy and

taking some credit for the good times that exist right now.

I would like to just, first of all, begin by extending my opinion that I personally believe the single biggest reason why the economy is as strong as it is right now is because of the hard work of the American people.

It has, in my opinion, little to do with the policies that are emanating from Washington DC, but very much everything to do with people all over this country who are willing to get up in the morning, work hard to make a living, and, in particular, those people who are willing to take a risk and invest some of their hard-earned money in a new business, start a new company or, more importantly, many of the entrepreneurs all over this country who deny themselves pay raises and instead reinvest their money back into their business, and, in so doing, they create new jobs and make the country a better place to live.

Getting back to the issue I was talking about earlier regarding what impact have the policies of the Clinton administration so far on all this, as we all know, the economy began to turn around in 1992, even before the election when Bill Clinton was elected.

There were lots of economic indicators that we were coming out of the recession of the early nineties and that the economy was going to be turning around.

After being elected, the administration put forward its economic stimulus package to help jump start, quote-unquote, the economy, even though it was beginning to take off, and that was defeated in this House. That was one of the centerpiece issues of the economic package.

The other centerpiece piece was their health care plan, and their health care plan additionally was defeated. Their rationale for their health care plan helping the economy, of course, was by lowering health care costs, our businesses would become more competitive.

One of the most compelling reasons why this economy is going so well is revealed in this chart next to me on the left. What is shown here is interest rates, long-term interest rates, and this very much impacts the ability of businesses to borrow money, their competitiveness, their ability to be profitable and reinvest money back into creating new jobs.

After Bill Clinton was elected, interest rates went up and up and up, and that is because budgets were being presented and passed by this House that increased spending, deficits as far as the eye can see.

This line right here demonstrates the November election of 1994. You can see on this chart that interest rates dropped dramatically, almost 2 points, following the election of 1994, when, for the first time in 40 years, you had a Republican Congress that was going to hold the line on spending, you were going to get the budget balanced. And

when the Government is not out there borrowing \$200 billion every year, the cost of borrowing money goes down, and that not only helps businesses to do better, it helps moms and dads to make ends meet better because they can get a home mortgage for less money, they can buy a car for less money.

Now, interest rates went back up over here, and that was after the government shutdown. Now they have leveled off since then. In my opinion, yes, if you wanted to say who is responsible for this strong economy, it is the hard working American people.

But if anything coming out of this city has played a role in these economic good times that we are in right now, it has been Washington holding the line on spending, getting the budget balanced, and that was a consequence of the Republican Congress coming in and holding the line on spending.

There another dividend of the Government spending less. Interest rates go down, yes, and that makes it easier for businesses to be successful and for families to be able to refinance a home mortgage. But when the Government is not spending so much money, it helps keep the inflation rate low. That is why we have this good situation, a situation that has not existed since the 1950's, the last time there was a Republican Congress, where you have low interest rates, a strong economy, low unemployment rates, and, importantly, low inflation rates, because inflation robs people of their hard-earned money.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that though I believe that this economy is so strong, that there is a lot to be proud of, an economy is a fragile thing, and we need to continue to hold the line on spending, we need to continue to work toward balancing the budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. COBLE]. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### CLEAN MONEY, CLEAN ELECTIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. TIERNEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon just to speak briefly on the issue of campaign finance reform.